



NEWS RELEASE

September 10, 2002

U.S. Border Patrol Marfa Sector Answered 911 Call

And rescued four individuals who were abandoned by smuggler

MARFA, *Texas*. – Four persons, all Mexican Nationals, who were abandoned in the desert by the man they trusted with their lives, called 911 from a cellular telephone out of desperation. The call was routed to the U.S. Border Patrol Marfa Sector and Agents immediately started searching for them by land and air.

Although the distressed individuals could not indicate their location, they were able to describe their surroundings. Based on that information, Agents concentrated their efforts in the Cienega Mountain area. A supervisor maintained communication with the individuals by cellular phone assuring them that help was on the way. Near the area, an Agent spotted signs indicating the path taken by the group. In turn, he advised the pilot who was helping with the search and gave him a direct line of travel. As a result of this team effort, in less than 45 minutes after the searched started, visual contact was made and the men were rescued.

Later, the individuals related how difficult their journey had been. They paid a smuggler to bring them illegally to the United States. As the hours went by, water and food became scarce. They started to ask themselves if they were going to make it. Pretending that he was going for help, the smuggler left and never came back. After waiting for a few hours, they agreed to seek help.

“The desert is a very dangerous place,” said Chief Patrol Agent Simon Garza, Jr. “Still, people are willing to put their lives in the hands of smugglers who care for nothing but the almighty dollar.”

Chief Garza also commended the Agents for their professionalism.

~ USBP ~

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